

## Original Article

# Relationships between Death Anxiety and Quality of Life in Iranian Patients with Cancer

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Received: August 10, 2015, Accepted: October 28, 2015

## ABSTRACT

**Objective:** The purpose of the study was to examine relationships between death anxiety and quality of life (QOL) parameters of patients with cancer in the Iranian sociocultural context. **Methods:** A descriptive, correlational methodology was used. The sample included 330 patients. Demographics, health information, religious behaviors, death anxiety, and QOL data were collected. **Results:** Overall death anxiety levels were moderate with satisfactory overall QOL. Death anxiety was

predictive of lowered QOL. Female patients had lower QOL and higher death anxiety compared to men. **Conclusions:** Findings support that higher death anxiety negatively impacts QOL in an Iranian sample with cancer. Alleviation of existential concerns in vulnerable patients may palliate mental health distress associated with facing cancer and its challenging treatments.

**Key words:** Cancer, death anxiety, quality of life, religiosity

## Introduction

Although survival rates for many cancers are improving globally as a result of improved diagnostic and treatment options, a cancer diagnosis continues to be perceived as a

serious threat to life.<sup>[1]</sup> Living with a perilous stressor such as cancer is recognized to activate cognitive schemas relative to personal death and dying<sup>[2,3]</sup> that may be impacted by

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**Cite this article as:** Soleimani MA, Lehto RH, Negarandeh R, Bahrami N, Nia HS. Relationships between death anxiety and quality of life in Iranian patients with cancer. *Asia Pac J Oncol Nurs* 2016;3:183-91.

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DOI:  
10.4103/2347-5625.182935